

[Home](#)

[Basic Drawing Materials](#) • [Basic Painting Materials](#) • [More Painting Materials](#)

[Books and More](#)

[Drawing](#) • [Painting](#) • [Painting and Drawing](#)

[Art Historical Materials](#) • [Artists in their Own Words](#)

The Complete Painter: Lessons from the Masters

Books and More: 4. Art Historical Materials



David Brody, 2019, after Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot,

Bridge on the Saône at Mâcon, 1834

From *The Complete Painter: Lessons from the Masters*, Lecture 30

This section has three sub-sections -

4.1 Art History

4.2 Art Criticism and Art Theory

4.3 History of Materials, Technical Art History and Conservation Studies

Three asterisks ... denote free materials

4.1 Art History

This short list contains links to articles and art historical texts referenced in the course and a few others that are comprehensive.

Art & Architecture Thesaurus ® Online, The Getty Research Institute ***

Davies, Penelope. ***Janson's History of Art***

Foster, Carter E. ***Hopper Drawing***

Grove Dictionary of Art

Hockney, David. ***Secret Knowledge***

Hockney, David and Martin Gayford. ***A History of Pictures***

Kemp, Martin. ***The Science of Art***

Kleiner, Fred S. ***Gardner's Art through the Ages: A Global History***

Schwartz, Gary, ***Ars Moriendi: the mortality of art*** ***

Sewell, Darrel, ed. ***Thomas Eakins***

Stokstad, Marilyn, and Michael Cothren. ***Art History***

4.2 Art Criticism and Art Theory

Many of my advanced students ask about art criticism, art theory and related subjects. For an overview of art criticism see the Wikipedia page on the ***History of Art Criticism*** and the related page on ***Art Criticism***.

Goldsmiths, University of London, offers an ***MA in Contemporary Art Theory***. They define the subject as encompassing, "theoretical perspectives that shape attitudes towards visual art . . . [including] . . . critical theory". They further define the study as an "interdisciplinary . . . academic discourse on visual culture . . . [that] . . . draws from the fields of performance studies, art history, philosophy, museology, queer theory, post-colonial studies and cultural studies."

Regarding "critical theory" see the **Encyclopaedia Britannica** and the **Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy**. The former tells us that critical theory is a "Marxist-inspired movement in social and political philosophy originally associated with the work of the Frankfurt School. Drawing particularly on the thought of Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud, critical theorists maintain that a primary goal of philosophy is to understand and to help overcome the social structures through which people are dominated and oppressed."

My students also often ask about the terms "semiotics", "modernism" and "postmodernism". The first concerns **"the study of signs and sign-using behaviour."** **Modernism** generally refers to "a period of experimentation in the arts from the late 19th to the mid-20th century" that was characterized by "a break with the past and the concurrent search for new forms of expression". **Postmodernism** is defined as "a late 20th-century movement characterized by broad skepticism, subjectivism, or relativism; a general suspicion of reason; and an acute sensitivity to the role of ideology in asserting and maintaining political and economic power."

Below you'll find a bibliography straddling art criticism, art theory and related subjects.

Arnheim, Rudolf. ***To the Rescue of Art: Twenty-Six Essays***

Barnet, Sylvan. ***A Short Guide to Writing About Art***

Beckley, Bill and David Shapiro, eds., ***Uncontrollable Beauty: Toward a New Aesthetics***

Berger, Maurice ed. ***The Crisis of Criticism***

Bourriaud, Nicolas. ***Relational Aesthetics***

Brenson, Michael. ***Is 'Quality' An Idea Whose Time Has Gone?***

Danto, Arthur. ***Beyond the Brillo Box***

Fenstermaker, Will. ***Ten Essays that Changed Art Criticism Forever*** ***

Fineberg, Jonathan. ***Art Since 1940***

Foster, Hal, ed. ***The Anti-Aesthetic: Essays on Postmodern Culture***

Fried, Michael. ***Art and Objecthood***

Gombrich, Ernst. *The Story of Art*

Greenberg, Clement. *Art and Culture: Critical Essays*

Hess, Thomas and Elizabeth Baker, eds., *Art and Sexual Politics*

Hickey, Dave. *Air Guitar: Essays on Art and Democracy*

_____. *The Invisible Dragon: Four Essays on Beauty*

hooks, bell. *Art on My Mind: Visual Politics*

Hughes, Robert. *Nothing If Not Critical*

_____. *The Shock of the New*

Indiana, Gary. *Vile Days: The Village Voice Art Columns, 1985-1988*

Kramer, Hilton. *The Revenge of the Philistines: Art and Culture, 1972-1984*

Krauss, Rosalind. *The Originality of the Avant-Garde and Other Modernist Myths*

Krimp, Douglas. *Before Pictures*

Kuspit, Donald. *Redeeming Art: Critical Reveries*

Lippard, Lucy and John Chandler, *The Dematerialization of Art* ***

Margolis, Joseph, ed., *Philosophy Looks at the Arts*

McEvilley, Thomas. *Art and Discontent*

Nochlin, Linda. *Women, Art, and Power and Other Essays*

Plagens, Peter. *Sunshine Muse: Art on the West Coast, 1945-1970*

Rose, Barbara, ed. *Readings in American Art Since 1900*

Rosenberg, Harold. *Art on the Edge: Creators and Situations*

_____. *Artworks and Packages*

_____. *The Tradition of the New*

Rubinstein, Raphael. *A Quiet Crisis* ***

_____. *Where is the Audience for Art Criticism Now?* ***

Saltz, Jerry. *Learning on the Job* ***

Schjeldahl, Peter. *The Hydrogen Jukebox: Selected Writings of Peter Schjeldahl 1978-1990*

Sontag, Susan. *Against Interpretation and Other Essays*

Storr, Robert. *Interviews on Art*

Szaïntoi, Andraïs. *The Visual Art Critic*

Wolfe, Tom. *The Painted Word*

Youngman, Hennessy (aka Jayson Musson), *Art Thoughtz* ***

4.3 History of Materials, Technical Art History and Conservation Studies

Berrie , Barbara H, editor. *Artists' Pigments, Volume 4*

Bomford, David, Sarah Herring, Jo Kirby. *Art in the Making: Degas*

Bomford, David, Jo Kirby, John Leighton, Ashok Roy. *Art in the Making: Impressionism*

Bomford, David, Jill Dunkerton, Dillian Gordon, Ashok Roy. *Art in the Making: Italian Painting Before 1400*

Bomford, David, Jo Kirby, Ashok Roy. *Art in the Making: Rembrandt*

Bomford, David. *Art in the Making: Underdrawings in Renaissance Paintings*

Carlyle, Leslie. *The Artist's Assistant*

Church, A.H. *The Chemistry of Paints and Painting* ***

_____. *The Chemistry of Paints and Painting* (hard copy)

Clarke, Mark. *The Art of All Colours*

Crook, Jo, Tom Lerner. *Impact of Modern Paints*

Dunkerton, Jill. *The Restoration and Technical Examination of Jan Van Eyck's Margaret, the Artist's Wife* ***

Eastaugh, Nicholas. *Pigment Compendium, A Dictionary and Optical Microscopy of Historical Pigments*

Getting, Rutherford J., and George L. Stout. *Painting Materials*

Harley, R.D., *Artists' Pigments c. 1600-1835*

Technical Bulletin, National Gallery ***

Stoner, Joyce Hill and Rebecca Rushfield ed. *Conservation of Easel Paintings*

Thompson, Daniel V. *The Materials and Techniques of Medieval Painting*

Townsend, Joyce H. *The Materials Used by British Oil Painters in the Nineteenth Century* ***

Townsend, Joyce, Jaqueline Ridge and Stephen Hackney. *Pre-Raphaelite Painting Techniques*

Wallert, Arie, Erma Hermens, and Marja Peek, eds. *Historical Painting Techniques, Materials, and Studio Practice* ***

Van de Wettering, Ernst. *Rembrandt: The Painter at Work*

[Home](#)

[Basic Drawing Materials](#) • [Basic Painting Materials](#) • [More Painting Materials](#)

[Books and More](#)

[Drawing](#) • [Painting](#) • [Painting and Drawing](#)

[Art Historical Materials](#) • [Artists in their Own Words](#)